

Bank of America Volume Triples in Past 20 Years

Most things that happen in a community sooner or later have an effect on somebody's bank account. This, according to Dean L. Sears, manager of Bank of America's Torrance branch, makes being a banker a pretty fascinating job and the bank's records a good mirror of the community. Sears looked back through some of those records for a brief story of this area.

Bank of America came to Torrance on May 18, 1925, when it acquired the old State Exchange Bank, located in a small room at the corner of El Prado Ave. and Torrance Blvd. It was not long till the bank needed more room. It built a new building at the corner of Marcelina and Sartori Aves., used half of it as the banking office, and leased the other half to Southern California Edison Co.

This was the way things were when Manager Sears came here to head the little staff of



DEAN SEARS
... Torrance Branch Manager

five employees on Oct. 1, 1935. He was the successor to James Leech, who had managed the branch for 10 years since it opened. Leech was not the only member of his family who was skilled in money matters for today his widow, Mrs. Harriett Leech, is treasurer of the City of Torrance.

When Manager Sears took charge in 1935, the branch had \$210,000 in loans for all purposes on its books. The growth had already begun to come that would one day see this loan total of money at useful work

in the community grow to 20 times that size. Today the loans outstanding come to more than \$4,000,000.

Growing Pains Force Expansion

By 1946 the little staff of five had grown to 22, and the bank was still quartered in just half the building. Growing pains were so severely felt that the leasing arrangement with Edison was ended, the partition cutting the building in half was knocked down, and the banking quarters expanded into the entire space.

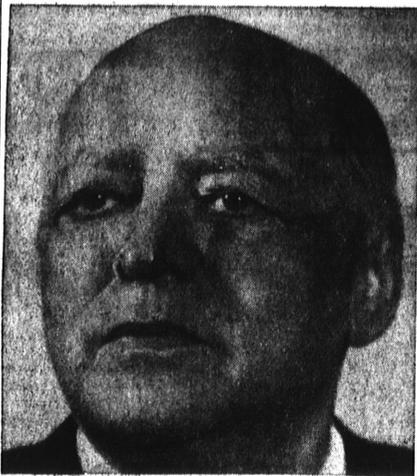
Progress was made in Torrance at an even faster pace in the years after 1946, and by 1953 the bank was again overcrowded. The bank decided to purchase the large building at Post and Sartori Aves., then occupied by the Star Department Store, and remodel it into a modern banking office. The job was completed and the bank moved in on Nov. 23, 1953. This time the change brought the branch into the status of one of the major and most modern branches in the state-wide system. Manager Sears feels it should provide ample space for quite a while.

A quick picture of the growth here since 1935 is indicated by the fact that there is now 11 times as much money on deposit in savings accounts as there was then, and 22 times as much in checking accounts.

"With such a record behind us, and with no end in sight for the continued growth of this whole area, it is easy to see why the staff and I are grateful for the fine opportunities to serve, and to grow, that Torrance has given us."

Local Navymen Aid In Tachen Evacuation

Carl E. Butler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Butler, of 4547 Talisman, and Richard J. Gazeley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Gazeley, of 22540 S. Vermont Ave., were aboard the USS Harry E. Hubbard when the ship took part in the Tachen evacuation last month. The Navy announced last week. The ship returned to Long Beach last week.



SOUTHLAND BUILDER . . . Milton Kauffman, president of the Kauffman Construction Co., is a pioneer builder of Torrance, and has built 15,000 homes in the Los Angeles area. His company is currently building developments in Torrance which will contain about 600 homes when completed.



GENERAL MANAGER . . . Don Wilson, vice-president and general manager, has been an associate of Kauffman's for over 10 years. He works closely with Kauffman in supervising every phase of building and merchandising thousands of houses each year.

Top Torrance Builder Catches Nation's Eye

Milton Kauffman is one of our neighbors, here in the Southwest area, who has been receiving the attention of the nation's press. House and Home Magazine, as well as newspapers across the nation, have reported his building organization as ninth in total number of houses begun in 1954, among the 14 top builders in the nation. By the same reports, he was fourth in Southern California. Of the 2044 homes that he reported having built, 1483

were in the city of Torrance. The remainder were in West Covina, 318; Norwalk, 114; Whittier, 129. He predicted that his organization would build 2500 homes in the year 1955, mostly in Torrance.

One of the first to recognize the vast need for houses that would come with industrial development of the areas south and southwest of Los Angeles, Kauffman has maintained his main office in nearby Gardena for many years. Although in the subdividing and building business here for 50 years, his proudest record is that established in the past 10. He is one of the very few men who can truthfully say he has built 15,000 houses in that space of time, totaling about \$100,000,000.

Began in 1939

It was in 1939 that he began his first few houses in the fields along Pioneer Blvd., against the advice of his associates and all the loan companies. In the years 1941 and 1942 he built another hundred houses nearby, and began obtaining land along Pioneer, Rosencrans, Studebaker, and Woodruff. Purchases were made from James Dilly, Mrs. Clark Bell, Maurice Long, the Strong, Archer and Clover families and many others, and from 3000 to 4000 houses were built on the approximately 800 to 1000 acres obtained.

In the years 1952 and 1953, Kauffman had moved a little farther east to acquire the property for Foster Gardens where he built approximately 1000 homes.

The ground breaking for Southwest Park in early 1954 by the Milton Kauffman Construction Corp., on a large tract of land near the corner of Hawthorne and 190th Street in Torrance, took on historical significance, when it was noted that the seller of the land was the Dominguez state Corp. The Dominguez family acquired this land in a grant of 43,000 acres in 1784. One Juan Dominguez, a soldier of Spain, secured the right to settle this vast domain, which includes the areas now occupied by the cities of Torrance, San Pedro, Wilmington.

the Palos Verdes Hills and "considerable land to the north." Kauffman announced, at the conclusion of negotiations for the land, his intention of building some 2000 moderately priced homes for veterans, to take care of what he spoke of as "the crying need for good housing within easy commuting distance of the rapidly growing Southwest area industrial plants." He stated that there were plans for public parks, schools, shopping centers. Several school sites were immediately sold to the Torrance Unified School District. Residents of Southwest Park homes, (there are now nearly 1500) are the first owners of the property since the original land grant; for this property, like many other thousands of acres, has remained in the Dominguez family for more than 150 years. The completed program will represent an outlay of approximately \$30,000,000.

Another 1900 Homes

In the middle of 1954 the Milton Kauffman Construction Corp. concluded arrangements with the Del Amo Estate for the purchase of 360 acres of their holdings in Torrance. This property is to be used to further extend the vast Kauffman housing program in this area. The property is bordered by Hawthorne, Sepulveda and Torrance Boulevards encompassing wooded, hilly terrain as well as level.

Plans are going forward to produce a complete community of 1900 homes similar to Southwest Park.

Kauffman never speaks of his building accomplishments without paying tribute to two young men who have been his right and left arm in every operation in the past 10 years. These are Don and Stan Wilson, brothers, who are vice-president and general manager, and vice-president in charge of construction, respectively. Mrs. R. I. Roberts, secretary of the organization, is another individual for whose industry and good judgement he has much praise. This willingness to give credit

where credit is due and an indomitable will to "get things done" are Kauffman's reasons why he built 18,000 houses in 10 years.

NAM Urges Employment of Handicapped

The National Association of Manufacturers proposes "action on the broadest possible front" by employers to eliminate remaining barriers to the employment of people with physical handicaps.

The proposal is made in a new "Guide for Employers in Hiring the Physically Handicapped," prepared by a committee of industrialists in response to the expressed wishes of employers "for guidance in employing and placing the handicapped individual in productive work."

The 32-page guide describes step-by-step procedures which industry has found successful in matching handicapped workers to jobs which they can do as well as able-bodied persons. NAM President Henry G. Ritter, 3rd, says the guide is offered as "another step forward in the association's vigorous campaign to open the doors of industrial employment to men and women with physical impairments," and expresses the conviction that "more employers will hire more handicapped employees when they know how to go about doing it."

The handbook contains detailed suggestions covering company policy; recruiting, interviewing and placing of job applicants; the training of employees; and follow-up procedures to assure satisfactory job performance, safety, and a feeling of well being on the part of the new employee.

What's going on here, anyway?

Probably lots of Torrance people have asked that question recently as they drove past Harvey Aluminum's Western Avenue plant. The answer is simple: Harvey is expanding. New equipment, new buildings, new products are coming in the immediate future. And they're important in three ways: to Torrance... to the industrial West... to America's defense.

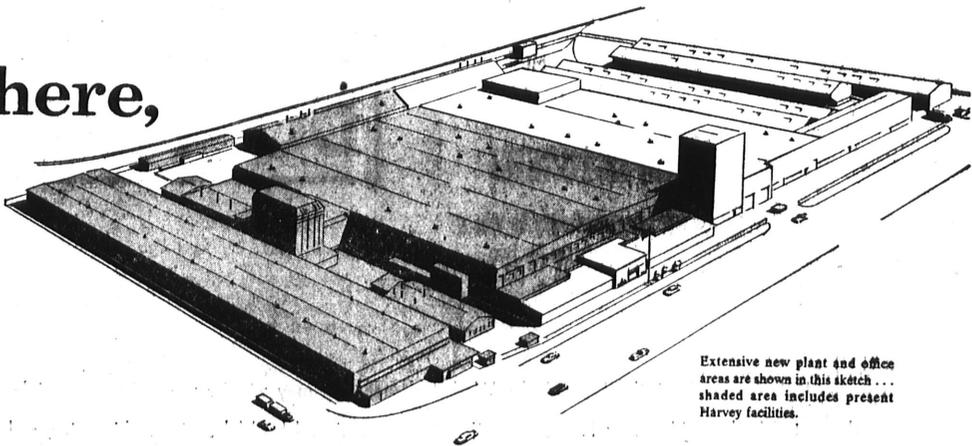
For Torrance... Harvey expansion means a bigger working force, more spending in Torrance by an unusually stable employee group. Engaged in a basic American industry, Harvey offers continuous community and family security to Torrance... and more opportunity to invite new industries to our city.

For the West... New equipment (and the new products this equipment makes possible) means growing self-sufficiency for

Western industry... less need to "import" aluminum mill products from the East... a better competitive position in many fields.

For America's defense... Harvey's additional press facilities mean that the nation can build more planes and missiles in less time... and time is vital in our defense. Forgings and giant extrusions replace complex assemblies... save time, material, cost by turning production hours into flying hours.

In the months and years to come, you'll see more and more big accomplishments from Torrance's Harvey Aluminum. While it is a local industry, its business is national, its influence wide. (For every present employee at Harvey's Torrance plant, 60 people are employed in outside industry.) And we're looking forward to even further growth... in both business and community.



Extensive new plant and office areas are shown in this sketch... shaded area includes present Harvey facilities.

MAKING THE MOST OF ALUMINUM... FOR EVERYONE

RESEARCH... DEVELOPMENT... PRODUCTION
Harvey does all three at a leading independent producer of aluminum extrusions in all alloys and all sizes, special extrusions, press forgings, hollow sections, structural, rod and bar, forging stock; pipe, tubes, impact extrusions, aluminum screw machine products and related products. Also similar products in alloy steel and titanium on application.



HARVEY ALUMINUM SALES, INC., TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA—BRANCH OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES



Harvey advertising tells how products from giant machines, such as the new extrusion press below, help reduce plane and missile construction time.

